CLAIM AMENDMENTS

10. (Currently Amended) [Apparatus] A system for [processing] cutting and shaping substantially rectangular shaped flexible tread strips salvaged from tire carcasses having tire tread surface and opposed inner casing surfaces and comprising two shorter ends and two longer sides, thereby to obtain narrower patterned strips of precise dimension and shape, said system further comprising in combination: power actuated strip feeder means for grasping one shorter end of the tread strips and passing [them] the tire tread strips through a linear transit path, said strip feeder means further comprising two rotating rollers being biassed together to squeeze the opposed tire tread and inner casing surfaces of the tire tread strips, and rotating strip shaping blade means carried by the rollers and operable along the transit path [operable] during transit of the strips through said linear transit path [to remove] for removing tire tread strip edge portions along the two longer sides thereby to produce a said narrower rectangular shaped tire tread strip between said two shorter ends.

11.(Currently Amended) The [apparatus] system of Claim 10 wherein the strip shaping means [further] comprises further means for providing tread strips of uniform width from said rectangular shaped tread strips [with] comprising indentation means operable at designated spacings near opposite edges of raw input tread strips as the strips pass though the transit path for indenting edges between said two shorter ends and producing longitudinal strip edges with relaxed tension thereby encouraging the narrower strip to lie flat.

12. (Currently Amended) [Apparatus] The system defined in Claim 10 wherein the strip shaping means further comprises two sequential shaping devices for shaping the tread strips in different ways at two sequential stations along the strip transit path.

14.(Currently Amended) [Apparatus as] The system defined in Claim 10 wherein the shaping means further comprises indentation means for introducing a set of longitudinally spaced indentation patterns extending along the longer sides of the tread strips.

15.(Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 14 wherein said tread strips [have a] having a tread surface and a surface opposite to the tread surface and further comprise means for indenting [wherein said indentation patterns comprise indentations in] the surface of the tread strip opposite to the tread.

18.(Original) Apparatus defined in Claim 10 wherein the shaping means comprises means for removing tread surface from the tread strip to establish tread strips of uniform thickness.

12. (Currently Amended) [Apparatus] The system defined in Claim 10 wherein the strip shaping means further comprises two sequential shaping devices for shaping the tread strips in different ways at two sequential stations along the strip transit path.

14.(Currently Amended) [Apparatus as] The system defined in Claim 10 wherein the shaping means further comprises indentation means for introducing a set of longitudinally spaced indentation patterns extending along the longer sides of the tread strips.

15.(Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 14 wherein said tread strips have a tread surface and a surface opposite to the tread surface and further comprises means for indenting [wherein said indentation patterns comprise indentations in] the surface of the tread strip opposite to the tread.

18.(Original) Apparatus defined in Claim 10 wherein the shaping means comprises means for removing tread surface from the tread strip to establish tread strips of uniform thickness.